THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Like other members of the Committee, the representative of SCICI has also suggested some steps for the revival of the deep sea fishing industry. However, these, and suggestions by other members, are required to be considered by the Committee as a whole and a composite view taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Processing of foodgrains in the surplus States

2773. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would allow processing of foodgrains in the surplus States which can facilitate more value addition in the farmers' surplus products such as Vitamin E DDG, plastics industrial alcohol, Chemicals etc. extracted from wheat in Punjab;

(b) whether processing of Sugarcane to industrial alcohol directly by the farmers for use as an alternative fuel to petrol and other chemicals could be allowed; and

(c) whether Government would remove restrictions on the import of efficient rice-shellers and allow them to process their paddy to rice for more value addition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes Sir it is allowed, subject to rules and regulations in force.

(b) The manufacture of industrial alcohol is delicensed.

(c) Import of rice-shellers is governed by the import-export policy of the Government of India.

Expansion of Food Processing Industries

2774. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing industries is likely to get a boost in the near future in the country after the entry of multinational companies therein;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have done any survey for the expansion of food processing industries in the State of Bihar;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what is the future of food processing industry in the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The entry of foreign companies in the food processing sector in India are expected to bring in addendent benefits of induction of modern technologies, modern managerial expertise market expansion both domestic and foreign, investment into this sector and consequent employment generation, exports, etc.

(c) to (e) While no State specific assessment of investment required for encouraging food processing industry have been made by this Ministry, under its Plan schemes, financial assistance is provided to State Government organisations/academic bodies for conducting studies to assess the potential investment required for development of food processing industries in various States/regions. One such proposal for assistance received from Bihar in this regard has been recently approved. With available raw-material resource base, there appears to be scope for